

Listing of the Claims

Please cancel claims 18, 19 and 21.

Please add new claim 23.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-13. Cancelled.

14. (Presently amended) A composition for generating neutralizing self-antibodies against autologous IL-15, wherein the composition comprises native IL-15 as an antigen, and aluminum hydroxide.

15. (Presently amended) A ~~The composition according to claim 14~~ for generating neutralizing self-antibodies against autologous IL-15, wherein the composition comprises recombinant IL-15 is a recombinant protein obtained in E. coli, and wherein the recombinant IL-15 has a glycosylation pattern different from autologous IL-15.

16. (Presently amended) A method for treating IL-15 expression-related diseases in a patient, wherein the method comprises administering to the patient an effective therapeutic dose of a composition comprising human IL-15 and aluminum hydroxide, wherein the IL-15 is an antigen, and wherein the expression related disease is autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease or leukemia.

17. (Presently amended) A method for treating autoimmune diseases in a patient, wherein the method comprises administering to a patient an effective therapeutic dose of a composition comprising human IL-15 and aluminum hydroxide, wherein the IL-15 is an antigen, and wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease or psoriasis.

18. Cancelled.

19. Cancelled

20. (Presently amended) A method for inhibiting IL-15 as a growth factor in a leukemia patient, wherein the method comprises administering to the patient an effective therapeutic ~~doses~~ dose of a composition comprising human IL-15, and aluminum hydroxide, and wherein the IL-15 is an antigen.

21. Cancelled.

22. (Presently amended) A method for generating a neutralizing antibody response against autologous IL-15, wherein said method comprises ~~comprising~~ administering to a host a composition comprising human IL-15 and aluminum hydroxide, wherein the IL-15 is an antigen.

23. (New) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the IL-15 is coupled to a carrier protein, and wherein the carrier protein is P64k protein.